

*Author's*

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## A RARE OPPORTUNITY

Published in 1849 was A HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF DUXBURY MASSACHUSETTS With GENEALOGICAL REGISTERS. The author was Justin Winsor who, at the age of 18, while a freshman at Harvard, began his intense search of the historical records which resulted in the publication of this history a little over two years later. The magnitude of his book is attested to by the fact that the history is still constantly used as a prime source material by students of Duxbury's past, since it was not until 1853 that Duxbury began publishing the annual reports of town officers.

Winsor went on to become a noted historian and librarian of Harvard College. He also served as orator of the day on the occasion of the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the original incorporation of Duxbury on June 17, 1887.

This year Plymouth will celebrate the 350th anniversary of the landing of the Mayflower. It is to be hoped that Duxbury, where some of the original passengers later settled, will have some role in the celebration.

It has been suggested by an informal committee that Justin Winsor's history of Duxbury be reprinted in time to be available for visitors to the Old Colony area in 1970, and more especially to be made available for Duxbury residents. (The reprinting would be a non-profit operation. Any surplus revenue involved could go to the Duxbury Rural & Historical Society or to the Duxbury Free Library.)

After consulting with Goodspeed's in Boston, we have learned that the history could possibly be reprinted with its illustrations in hard cover for six dollars plus handling. The project will not be undertaken unless at least 200 subscribers are willing to pay a pre-publication fee to guarantee that the project can be undertaken on a break-even basis. This is a RARE opportunity. (One Duxbury resident recently paid \$45 for a copy of Winsor's history, and Winsor White (a descendant of Justin Winsor) told us copies of the book at auctions have been sold for as much as \$85.

HOW ABOUT YOU? Are you interested enough in your town to have an important part of its history in your private library? If you are, fill in the following blank. No payment required until the order is placed.

Now that Duxbury's population is over 9,000, there must be at least 200 persons who would like to own Justin Winsor's rare book. The success of the project (and remember that it is non-profit) I depend on your response.